

Establishing A Policy To Require Annual Public Reporting Of Building Energy Consumption And Benchmarking Information For County Owned Buildings

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Bartels, Heppner, Lapp, and Wawro)

Legislators James H. Delaune and Kevin A. Roberts offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County has distinguished itself as an environmental leader through numerous environmental actions including earning designation by NYS as a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and

WHEREAS, per Executive Order No. 1-2016, Ulster County purchases renewable energy credits ensuring all our electricity comes from renewable sources, received a Green Power Leadership award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is recognized by the United States EPA one of the top municipal green energy purchasers in the country; and

WHEREAS, the County further demonstrates leadership on climate protection by purchasing carbon credits to offset all remaining greenhouse gas emissions associated with operations resulting in a net carbon neutral government operation; and

WHEREAS, per Executive Order No. 1-2016 the County Executive committed to reducing- through conservation, efficiency and renewable generation- the GHG emissions associated with operations by 25% by 2025 and 80% by 2050 over the 2012 baseline; and

WHEREAS, since 2012 government efficiency and restructuring efforts have resulted in over a 20% reduction in electricity use and an average savings of over \$370,000 per year to tax payers; and,

WHEREAS, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has announced a new Clean Power Communities program which would allow the County access to significant grant funding to further implement clean energy actions reducing both energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the Clean Power Communities program requires that the County implement certain High-Impact Actions; and

WHEREAS, one of the High-Impact Actions requires the legislative establishment of a policy requiring the public reporting of building benchmarking and energy consumption; and

Resolution No. 447 October 18, 2016

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County Owned Buildings**

WHEREAS, the County already has instituted an operational practice of tracking all building energy use and producing reports; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Ulster County to continue to collect energy use data for all fuel types used, on a monthly basis where possible, on all buildings greater than 1,000 square feet in size as well as data documenting property use; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County will make publically available on the internet annual summary statistics for each covered property including Energy Use Intensity (EUI), greenhouse gas emissions, an energy performance score where available, and other information as required by EPA Portfolio Manager or deemed appropriate by the County,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE